

MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY  
ACT OF 1997

**HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will contribute to the improved health and well-being of many Americans. The symptoms and complications related to diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension could be significantly diminished by a change in lifestyle brought about with the help of medical nutrition therapy. Medical nutrition therapy is a service provided by a registered dietitian (RD) or nutrition professional that entails counseling in diet, drug interaction, vitamin therapy, and physical activity. It can improve the quality of life of seriously ill patients while saving health care dollars by speeding recovery, reducing the incidence of medical complications, lowering the number and length of hospital stays, and decreasing the need for drug and surgery treatments. Currently, this treatment is not covered by Medicare, thereby discouraging those who do not want to pay for it out-of-pocket from receiving it.

Today, I am introducing the Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 1997 with Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO and Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and 98 cosponsors. This bill will provide Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional upon the referral of a physician. My colleagues and I have drafted this bill with the intention of changing what is currently a sick care system, which only pays for care when people get sick and sicker, to a health care system which pays to keep people as healthy as possible. It is my hope that this bill will help to save Medicare, and most importantly, to save lives.

We all know we should not wait until we hear a crunching sound under the hood of a car before going in for an oil change. Medicare is paying for the health care equivalent of rebuilding engines, but won't pay for the oil change to prevent it.

IN HONOR OF REGINA RUTKOWSKI:  
CHOSEN TO BE MARSHALL OF  
BAYONNE'S CONTINGENT IN THE  
TRI-STATE PULASKI DAY PA-  
RADE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Regina Rutkowski, who was chosen as marshall of Bayonne's contingent to the Tri-State Pulaski Day Parade which will march along Fifth Avenue in New York City on October 20, 1997. Mrs. Rutkowski will be invested with the marshall's sash at a brunch held in her honor on Sunday, April 20 at the Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne.

The journey which has led Mrs. Rutkowski to be recognized with this honor began in Poland where she was born to Franciszka and Teodor Razin. Along with her family, the future

Mrs. Rutkowski suffered the ravages of World War II. Her father, a noncommissioned officer in the Polish Cavalry, was captured by the Nazis and placed in a concentration camp for 3 years. The family was later relocated to a German labor farm from which Mrs. Rutkowski still can clearly recall the bombardments in this strange country. After the war, her family moved to England where Mrs. Rutkowski's father joined the British Army, becoming a member of the military band. Mrs. Rutkowski acquired a passion for music from her father, an accomplished musician and composer. In her own right, Mrs. Rutkowski is an accomplished artist with numerous works of art to her credit.

Upon her family's arrival in the United States, Mrs. Rutkowski continued her education which culminated with her graduation from Jersey City State College magna cum laude with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Subsequently, the former Regina Razin met and married Richard a Rutkowski who went on to become mayor of Bayonne from 1990 to 1994. This joyful union produced three children: Richard, Jr. who manages the Hi-Hat Caterers along with his wife Bonnie; Stephen, a chiropractor in Connecticut who is married to Dr. Teresa Rutkowski; and Robert, a graduate of Widener University Law School. Mrs. Rutkowski's family circle is completed by her brother and sister-in-law Thomas and Helen Razin and their two sons Thomas and Richard.

Mrs. Rutkowski has long been an active community member. This extraordinary woman has been a valued member of many Polish-American organizations, including the Pro Arte League of the Kosciuszko Foundation, AMERPOL Club of New Jersey, the Polish-American Heritage Committee of Bayonne, and Bayonne's Third of May Polish Constitution observances. Additionally, Mrs. Rutkowski serves on the Parish Council of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Bayonne and is a member of the parish's centennial committee and the Mt. Carmen Guild.

Regina Rutkowski is a vivid example of community spirit. It is an honor to have such a caring and dedicated individual in my district working on behalf of her fellow residents of Bayonne.

HONORING TO PATRICK GRIFFIN  
TANNER

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Patrick Griffin Tanner, who tragically died last week at the tender age of 19 in New Orleans. Patrick, a native of Washington, DC, was a tireless worker for the enrichment and betterment of his city, Nation, and world.

In his short, yet tireless and noble life, young Patrick was involved in the Big-Brother program; a volunteer at the Ivymount School; a volunteer at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church; he worked in the Special Olympics; served as a volunteer for housing rehabilitation and disaster relief programs in several States, as well as in rural Virginia and the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington. At the close of his life, he was working in New Orle-

ans for the Habitat for Humanity organization. He was indeed a well-rounded and giving boy.

I knew of Patrick through my efforts as a Congressman to give him advice and encouragement for his desire to enter the U.S. Naval Academy. He would have been a credit to the U.S. Navy.

When I dwell on how tragic it is to lose such a fine, upstanding young man, I must say that of all the benefits which education and virtue confer upon me, the contempt of the death of a young person is one of the greatest.

In composing my remarks for Patrick's tribute, I recalled some remarks by the Roman poet Horace. Horace wrote the following in the year 65 B.C., but it seems as though when he wrote these remarks, he was thinking of Patrick Tanner. Horace wrote:

The wise man who can command his passions, who fears not want, nor death, nor chains, finally resisting his appetites and despising the honors of the world, who relies wholly upon himself, whose angular points of character have all been rounded off and polished is indeed a free man.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick Griffin Tanner is indeed a free man now. The chains and shackles of this world have indeed been lifted; his spirit has soared, his soul is at rest.

In closing, I send my heartfelt wishes to his parents, John and Nancy Tanner, as well as to his sister, grandparents, relatives, and friends. Patrick will be sorely missed.

"WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITI-  
ZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION"  
PROGRAM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 1997*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Vicksburg High School for winning first place at the State competition of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. This organization works to educate young people about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and their place in American history and our lives. Over the past 10 years, more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students have developed a better understanding of their responsibilities as American citizens through participation in this program.

The following distinguished students will be participating in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals which will be held here in Washington on April 26-28: Adrian Brown, Benjamin Bryant, William Campbell, Brian Crawford, Sarah Czaika, Richard Feibelman, Michael Finney, Katherine Flanagan, Stacey George, Beth Hassell, Claude Jarrett, Eric Johnson, David Jones, Quincy Jones, Ormonde Landry, Shelia Lewis, Scott Lovorn, Farrah Martin, Dionne Murphy, Nicole Nixon, Allison Price, Taylor Rowland, Ryan Roy, Amanda Schilling, Anna Sorey, Jason Stewart, Jennifer Sykes, David Thomas, Tonya Tonth, John Voller, Michael Warren, Emily Weatherly, and Hugh Whitten.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sherry Fisher, who deserves much of the credit for the team's success. The district coordinator, Sam Habeeb, and the State coordinator, Lynette McBrayer, also made important contributions to the team's efforts.